

# JPIC Corner

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An E-Publication of the United States Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart to promote Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. **Sign up now.**



## **Coordinator's Note**

*Brother Warren Perrotto, MSC  
JPIC Coordinator  
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart*

### **Christmas Season**



I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas Day. As we recover from the hustle and bustle of the last few weeks, let us remember that in the Catholic Church, Christmas doesn't end on Christmas Day. Christmas is a season, starting Christmas Day and lasting eight days, giving us more time to contemplate the mystery of the Word made Flesh and to fully celebrate the birth of our Savior. As we approach the end of the year and look forward to the New Year, let us pray and work for peace.

Peace affects each one of us individually; we each want to be at peace with ourselves and our decisions, to find inner peace. Peace also affects our families and friends, our workplaces, and our local, national and international communities. January 1st is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God and it is also the World Day of Peace in the Catholic Church.

As we take a look at "2011 in Review," we will also look at one challenge to peace: violence within the family. We include an article on domestic violence from a Catholic perspective as well as links to resources for victims of domestic violence as well as for parents who are feeling overwhelmed or simply need a little additional information or support.

*January 1st is the World Day of Peace.*



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### **Did You Know?**

- **1 in 4 women, and 1 in 9 men in the United States are victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives. ([Source](#))**
- **As many as 324,000 women each year experience intimate partner violence during their pregnancy. ([Source](#))**
- **Verbal abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse before the age of 18 are all correlated with higher run away rates. ([Source](#))**
- **Abused children are 25% more likely to experience teen pregnancy. ([Source](#))**

## Domestic Violence: A Catholic Perspective

*“the family is the first and indispensable teacher of peace.”*

Domestic violence is defined as “a pattern of abusive behaviors in a romantic relationship or between family members.” It comes in different forms of abuse: mental, verbal, physical, and spiritual. It does not discriminate. It has no economic, social, ethnic, cultural, religious, age or gender boundaries. It places a heavy burden on one’s mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing.

Often domestic violence comes from households of controlling and dominating persons who instill fear, confusion, and co-dependency into their victims. They treat others as objects. With intimidating power, they prey on the weaknesses of others and deny them a protective and safe environment. Such surroundings truly prevent victims from developing authentically as human beings. They convey to the victims that they are not worthy of the love, dignity and respect that they deserve and to which they have a right.

It is important to note that “domestic violence is not a one-time incident and many find that the abuse occurs in a repeating cycle. Each act of abuse may be followed by an apology, or the abusive partner may blame others for the abuse. As the relationship continues, the abuse may get worse and occur more frequently.” In such conditions, especially for children, our fear is that in their adult life, they will

follow in the same footsteps as those before them.

Christians cannot close their eyes to the injustice of domestic violence. In his 2008 World Day of Peace message, Pope Benedict XVI noted that “the family is the first and indispensable teacher of peace. It is no wonder, therefore, that violence, if perpetrated in the family, is seen as particularly intolerable.”

The prophet Micah urges us to do what is good and what God requires of us: “Only to do the right and to love goodness and to walk humbly before God.” This is what we must do, and this is what victims of domestic violence ask of us. They ask to be treated with love and dignity.

Br. Warren Perrotto, MSC

### Sources:

1. Safe Space Organization, <http://www.thesafespace.org/the-basics/relationships-101/about-domestic-violence/?gclid=CKfziM3fkKsCFciC5QodcUd9xw>
2. Ibid.
3. No. 3.
4. Micha 6:8.

## Domestic Violence Awareness

***1 in 4 women, and 1 in 9 men in the United States are victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives.***

If you need help, you can call The National Domestic Violence Hotline (24/7)

**1.800.799.SAFE (7233)**

**1.800.787.3224 (TTY)**

For more information, visit [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org).

## God Loves Us

It is important that we remember that God always loves us.

Just because we’ve made poor choices in the past doesn’t mean that we should give up.

While we cannot always repair the damage we have done in the past, we can try, and, with God’s help, we can make better choices in the future.

## Resources for Overwhelmed Parents

### General Tips and Resources:

Parenting is not an easy job, but it is worth it. Check out the links below for tips, information, resources and support.

- [OneToughJob.org](http://OneToughJob.org) - an online resource for real-live parents
- [KidsHealth.org](http://KidsHealth.org) - for children's health and development
- [Positive Parenting Tips](http://PositiveParentingTips.com) - from the CDC
- [Help For Parents](http://HelpForParents.org) - from ChildHelp.org

### Resources Related to Abuse (from The National Domestic Violence Hotline)

- [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)
- [Am I Being Abused?](http://AmIBeingAbused.com)
- [Are You Abusing Others?](http://AreYouAbusingOthers.com)

### Resources Related to Substance Abuse

*Concerned about your children?*

- [Tips on Talking with Teens and Tweens](http://TipsOnTalkingWithTeensandTweens.com)
- [Parents: The AntiDrug](http://ParentsTheAntiDrug.com)
- [Getting Help for A Teen Who Drinks](http://GettingHelpForATeenWhoDrinks.com)
- [Early Action Against Teen Drug Use & Drinking - Resource List](http://EarlyActionAgainstTeenDrugUse&Drinking-ResourceList.com)

*Looking to Make a Change?*

- [Alcoholics Anonymous](http://AlcoholicsAnonymous.com)
- [Substance Abuse Treatment Locator \(SAMHSA\)](http://SubstanceAbuseTreatmentLocator(SAMHSA).com)



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*Both photos depict models and are for illustration only.*



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### Three Hotlines to Know

[The National Domestic Violence Hotline:](#)

**[1-800-799-SAFE \(7233\)](tel:1-800-799-SAFE)**

[The National Child Abuse Hotline:](#)

**[1-800-4-A-CHILD](tel:1-800-4-A-CHILD)**

[National Runaway Switchboard:](#)

**[1-800-RUNAWAY](tel:1-800-RUNAWAY)**

# 2011: Year in Review

*Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation - Reader Favorites*

## A few of the most popular articles this year

- November: [Food Deserts](#)  
September: [Beyond School](#)  
August: [Prostitution](#)  
June/July: [Who is a Refugee? Definitions at a Glance](#)  
May: [Teenage Pregnancy and Child Health](#)  
April: [Animal Rights](#)  
March: [Bullying](#)  
February: [Homelessness in the United States](#)  
January: [Adopted: A Personal Reflection](#)

What was your favorite article? Let us know at [jpac@misacor-usa.org](mailto:jpac@misacor-usa.org).

## Most Read Article of 2011 (May 2011)



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### **Full-Term Pregnancy: How Many Weeks?**

Babies born prematurely are at a higher risk of health issues than babies born at full term. In fact, disorders related to short gestation and low birthweight are one of the top three leading causes of infant mortality in the United States. But what does full-term really mean? Anywhere between 37 weeks and 41 weeks is considered full term, but a newly released study, published in *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, indicates that babies born between 37 and 39 weeks of gestation have a higher infant mortality rate than those born later (between 39 and 41 weeks).

[Miss this article? Read it online.](#)

## Most Popular Article About Care for Creation (April 2011)

### ***Building the Kingdom of God: Systemic Change***



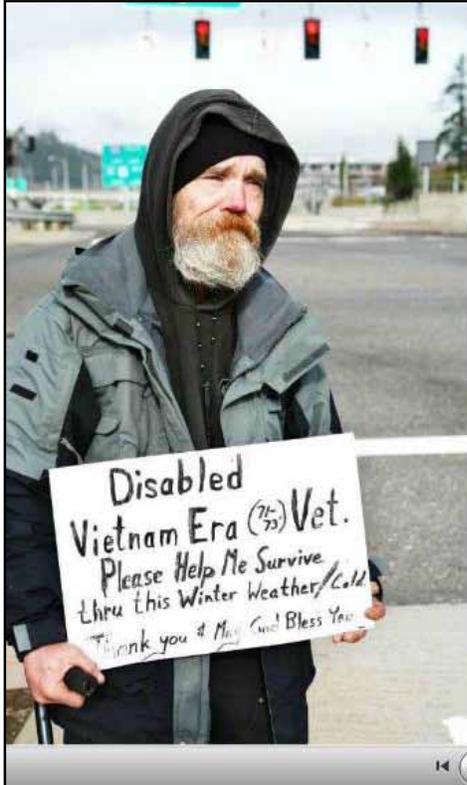
When we work to implement Catholic Social Teaching, we are striving to create a more just world, to help build the Kingdom of God, a kingdom based on love, justice, peace, healing and reconciliation. As Catholics, we are interested in meeting the needs of vulnerable members of society today, but we are also interested in changing society so that everyone's rights and dignity are respected tomorrow. So while it is important to give direct assistance to those in need now, for instance to give food to the hungry, we also want to work towards the day when everyone is able to feed themselves and their families. The building of the Kingdom of God will not be finished until the end of time, but we can each do our own part to help build the Kingdom now in our little corner of the world, both by providing direct assistance and by working to make our social systems and structures more just so that less direct assistance is necessary.

[Miss this article? Read it online.](#)

# 2011: Year in Review

*A look back on some of the most popular articles this year*

## Most Popular Slideshow: Behind Homelessness (February 2011)



**Behind Homelessness**

*A look at some of the causes and contributing factors*



A slideshow by  
The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart  
USA Province

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To see more of our slideshows, please visit our page on Slide-share.net. Our user name is Misacorusa.

[Click here to visit our page](#)

[View slideshow](#)

## Most Popular Issue Overall: Prostitution (August 2011)



© Rubén Hidalgo

### Most Popular Article: [Street Prostitution in the United States](#)

Prostitution is a tragedy, especially for our children. A good number of child prostitutes are runaways from home escaping from sexual abuse. They become homeless and use the streets as their dormitories. Covenant House, an outreach program for homeless youth reports that, "A child who spends more than 24 hours living on the streets has an 80% greater chance of being trafficked" for prostitution service.

[Read more](#)

### Other Popular Content in this Issue:

- [Child Abuse, Runaway Youth and Prostitution](#)
- [Human Trafficking and the Commercial Sex Industry](#)

*Did You Know?* In the US, about half of girls living on the street are involved in formal prostitution. [Learn ways you can get involved](#)

## New Year 2012: What is God calling me to do in my life?



*As we prepare to enter a new year and reflect on our goals, hopes and dreams for 2012, we invite you to also take time to reflect on what God is calling you to do.*

“Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Every time we pray the Our Father, we ask God to bring to fulfillment his will in us and in our world. In saying this we want to do our part and form our lives according to the Father’s will. But how do we know what may be God’s will?

As we know, discovering the will of God is not so easy. How do we distinguish between what God wants and the ideas that come from our own desires and needs? [Continue Reading](#)

Check out Fr. Dave Foxen’s latest articles and share your thoughts at [www.faith.misacor-usa.org](http://www.faith.misacor-usa.org).

## Discovering Peace: Life’s Healing Journey

*Peace begins with us. Are you experiencing peace, love and joy in your life?*

One of the ministries that the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are involved in is Life’s Healing Journey Retreat Ministry. Life’s Healing Journey offers a deeper understanding of what are, and what are not, normal feelings and/or reactions to hurts, losses and disappointments. It guides you in letting go of the harmful impact these feelings and reactions have had on your life.

Especially when we are hurting or struggling, it is important that we know and accept God’s love for us. Many parishes offer support groups and spiritual counseling to help people know God and trust in Him. If you are in the Northern Illinois area, we invite you to learn more about our Life’s Healing Journey retreats. For more information, please visit [www.misacor-usa.org/lhj](http://www.misacor-usa.org/lhj).

## Ask an MSC

*Have questions?*

*Ask one of our members.*

[www.ask.misacor-usa.org](http://www.ask.misacor-usa.org)

## About JPIC Corner

*JPIC Corner* is a monthly publication of the USA Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart:

Publisher: The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

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JPIC Coordinator: Bro. Warren Perrotto, MSC

Editors: Fr. E. Michael Camilli, MSC and Lindsay Marcellus



Brother Warren



Father Mike



Lindsay

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For more information about the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, our mission and spirituality, please visit our website: [www.misacor-usa.org](http://www.misacor-usa.org)

